

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
APPLICATION FOR PATENT

BY

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FOR

SWIVEL MOUNTED COMMODITY CASE

Patent Docket No. 2002

TITLE: SWIVEL MOUNTED COMMODITY CASE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

5 This is a continuation of Provisional Application
number 60/412438, filed September 19, 2002.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION:

10 The present invention generally relates to the field
of optic accessories and in particular to a swivel-
mounted case for holding and dispensing an optical
device, such as a pair of eyeglasses.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION:

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 In the field of optical devices, cases are often
provided for the protection of the devices, such as a
pair of eyeglasses. In particular, cases are provided
for storing eye glasses when they are not in use. In the
20 prior art, glass cases are generally provided in a shape
and form for sheathing a pair of glasses such that a
compact storage arrangement using a lightweight material
is embodied. Such cases are not durable and are subject
to inadvertent damage by crushing, bending, or other
25 damaging effects due to accident. Misplacement of glass
cases is also a common problem.

There are however, hard-bodied eyeglass cases available. An example is disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,878,873, entitled EYEGLASS CONTAINER WITH LID, which issued on March 9, 1999, to Stewart F. Clark. The 5 container disclosed in this patent is basically a rigid tubular container with an open first end and a lid that covers the open first end. The second end is typically closed. A lid is attached to the body of the container by means of a hinge.

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Another drawback with the prior-art cases is that those that can attach to clothing such as a pocket for, example, have stationary clips that often get in the way or become snagged when detaching or re-attaching the case 15 to the particular pocket. Moreover, the clip can also cause other pocketed utensils such as pens, business cards and the like to become inadvertently dislodged from a user's pocket.

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An example of the clip-type eyeglass holder is disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 6,210,003 B1, entitled EYEGLASS CLIP DEVICE, which issued April 3, 2001, to Li-Li Chan and Kuang Fu. Basically this holder includes an elastic clip for holding a pair of eyeglasses to a belt or other item of clothing. Another example of the clip-type eyeglass holder is disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 6,533,414 B2, which issued on March 18, 2003 to Barbara Newler. A third example is disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,956,812, entitled EYEGLASS HOLDER, which issued on 25 September 28, 1999, to January L. Moennig. None of these clip-type eyeglass holders offer any protection for the eyeglasses against scratching or breaking.

The purchase of eyeglasses, such as sunglasses and prescription glasses, can be an expensive investment often costing several hundred dollars. To obtain long lasting and functional use of a pair of eyeglasses, it is 5 important that the glasses be properly cared for and protected. Many modern eyeglasses are formed from thin, aesthetically appealing frames that can be relatively fragile. Furthermore, proper care of eyeglasses requires that the lenses be protected when not in use so as to 10 avoid scratching of the lenses.

What is clearly needed is a durable commodity case that can be securely mounted to a user's belt wherein its contents can be securely removed and replaced with ease 15 of movement, and wherein removal of the contents does not interfere with other carried items or clothing.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION:

20 As will be amplified in greater detail hereinbelow, the present invention solves the prior art problems by providing a swivel mounted commodity case for holding eyeglasses that includes a durable tubular-shaped elongated case having an interior surface extending from 25 a first end to an opposed closed second end wherein the interior surface forms a holding chamber for receiving the eyeglasses. A top is added that is hingedly attached to the first end of the case. The top is adapted to selectively move between an open position wherein the 30 opening to the chamber is freely exposed and a closed position wherein the top covers the first end of the case. A rotatable clip is provided which is used for attaching the case to a user's clothing. The clip

includes a clip member having a clasp for attaching to the user's clothing and includes a slot receptacle; and, an annular hub for attachment to a side of the case. The hub is disposed for engaging the slot receptacle in order 5 to attach the case to the clip member, whereby the case is rotatably mounted to the user's clothing.

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide an improved eyeglass case for holding and protecting eyeglasses, which is handy for 10 access by the user.

Another object of the present invention is to provide an improved eyeglass case that is rigid and 15 easily mounted to an article of the user's clothes.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide an improved optical commodity case that when attached to a user's clothing can swivel with movement of 20 the user, while at the same time protecting a fragile pair of eyeglasses.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide an improved optical commodity case that is easy 25 to open and can hold a variety of different types of eyeglasses.

Still other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will become readily apparent to those 30 skilled in the art from the following detailed description, wherein is shown and described only the preferred embodiment of the invention, simply by way of illustration of the best mode contemplated of carrying

out the invention. As will be realized, the invention is capable of other and different embodiments, and its several details are capable of modifications in various obvious respects, all without departing from the 5 invention. Accordingly, the drawings and description are to be regarded as illustrative in nature, and not as restrictive, and what is intended to be protected by Letters Patent is set forth in the appended claims. The present invention will become apparent when taken in 10 conjunction with the following description and attached drawings, wherein like characters indicate like parts, and which drawings form a part of this application.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS:

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FIG. 1 is an elevation view of a commodity case with a rotatable clip according to an embodiment of the present invention

20 FIG. 2 is a left-side view of the case as shown in FIG. 1 with a rotatable clip attached.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF ONE EMBODIMENT:

25 FIG. 1 is an elevation view of a commodity case with a rotatable belt clip according to an embodiment of the present invention. Case 100 is adapted as a durable case for storing optics in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention. Optics (not shown) are stored in the case 100, which includes a handle and non-handle 30 bearing glasses or spectacles. The case 100 is preferably manufactured in a durable and lightweight material, such as aluminum. Other equivalent durable materials, such as some

types of polymers, may also be used in the manufacture of the case 100.

The case 100 has an openable top 101 and a main case 5 body 103. The top 100 is connected to the body 103 by means of a hinge 102 in the illustrated example. In a preferred embodiment, the top 101 is biased closed with a spring mechanism (not shown). The spring mechanism also connects to the hinge 102 so that when opening the top 101 10 spring tension is present, and the spring tension favors closing past a certain angle of the top 101 and opening at a greater angle of the top 101.

The case 100 is of a length and major width dimension 15 to comfortable accommodate a pair of glasses in the folded position. The case 100 has a rotatable clip 108 affixed to one outside wall thereof. The clip 108 is preferably positioned at substantial center of the major width of the case and somewhat above the center of the length dimension 20 of the case 100. The clip 108 comprises a base portion 105 springedly attached to a spring loaded clasp 105 for the purpose of enabling the case 100 to be clipped onto a user's belt, for example. The spring mechanism (not shown) can be any known in the prior art of manufacture of spring 25 tension clasps. The clip 108 is preferably mounted on the sidewall of the case 100 using a glue pad 107 and an annular hub 106. The clip 108 is rotatably mounted to the hub 106 so that it may freely rotate about the hub in the direction of the arrows and in the reverse direction 30 as well.

FIG. 2 is a left-side view of the case shown in FIG. 1. In this example, the clip 108 is illustrated as being

mounted to the case 100 using the pad 107 and the hub 106. The hub 106 may be a fixed hub or a spinning hub. The clasp 105 is shown attached to the clip body 104 (spring not shown). The hub 106 is inserted into a slot 5 receptacle of the clip 108 and is held in place by means of a spring-loaded pawl. The hub 106 is released from the pawl by a release lever, also under spring tension. When placed in position, preferably on a user's belt, the case 100 of the present invention is freely rotatable and 10 can be easily rotated to a position most convenient to the user for removing and replacing the contents thereof, such as eyeglasses stored in the case. The feature of rotatability with respect to the case 100 enables the least amount of manual work to remove and replace the 15 eyeglasses stored therein. Similarly, removing and replacing eyeglasses from the case 100 in this embodiment does not interfere with the user's clothing or other utensils the user may be carrying. Keeping the case 100 clipped to a user's belt while working, or while engaged 20 in normal activities enables a more secure storage setting wherein a user is less likely to misplace or lose the case 100.

The apparatus of the present invention provides a 25 consumer market that is non-existent in the prior art. People who are on the go and who are highly mobile, such as in the professions of sales, construction and many other professions benefit from always having their glasses in convenient reach and from exerting the least 30 amount of time and effort when retrieving their glasses or other commodities from their rotatably mounted cases.

Although the invention has been described with reference to a specific embodiment, this description is not meant to be construed in a limiting sense. Various modifications of the disclosed embodiment as well as 5 alternative embodiments of the invention will become apparent to one skilled in the art upon reference to the description of the invention. It is therefore contemplated that the appended claims will cover any such modifications of embodiments that fall within the true scope of the 10 invention.